University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center Alumni Foundation, USA, Inc.

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2026 Chairman's Report

I. Institutional Partnerships and UERM Engagement

- **Strong AFUSA Presence at the February 2026 UERM Homecoming**
  - Maintained a strong presence during the February Homecoming celebrations at the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center (UERM).
  - Engaged with UERM officials and reconnected with AFUSA beneficiaries to strengthen institutional relationships and assess the impact of AFUSA's support. This meetings were initiated by VC Edna Solitario MD'79
  - Vice Chairman Wilson Young and President Norbert Uy informed AFUSA that, for calendar year 2025, AFUSA was UERM's largest financial donor.
  - It is hoped that this achievement will serve as a template for future collaborative initiatives between the UERM College of Medicine (COM) and AFUSA.

- **Progress on the Legacy Wall of Giving**
  - Initiated the Legacy Wall of Giving concept in October 2025 initiated by Lydia Jacinto-Cohan MD'79 as a strategic fundraising initiative.
  - The project is progressing toward institutionalization by the UERM College of Medicine, with anticipated approval by the UERM Board of Trustees.
  - The initiative is designed to provide financial support for three of AFUSA's principal program areas:
    - Community Outreach
    - Faculty Development
    - Research
  - Once institutionalized, the program is expected to provide a sustainable framework for alumni philanthropy and strengthen the long-term partnership between AFUSA and UERM.

- **Faculty and Student Concerns**
  - Hosted a town hall meeting on June 15, 2026, bringing together UERM faculty member Albert Chua, MD '83, and UERM President Norbert Uy, representing the administration.
  - The meeting provided a forum for discussing faculty and student concerns and promoting constructive dialogue between stakeholders.

- AFUSA presence started during the UERM Annual Research Forum with a video message President Ric Flores MD'79

II. Fundraising and Financial Sustainability

- **Two-Pronged Fundraising Strategy**
  - Continued implementing AFUSA's two-pronged approach to fundraising, combining targeted donor cultivation with class-based giving initiatives.
  - Identified donors willing to help support AFUSA's six memorial lectures over the next five years, strengthening the financial sustainability of these educational programs.
  - Sent requests for support of AFUSA's Bronze Scholarships to the Classes of 1992, 1982, and 1977, all of which will celebrate milestone reunions in 2027.

- **Introduction of Car Donations**
  - Added car donations as a new option for supporting AFUSA's charitable programs.

- This initiative expands the range of ways alumni and other supporters can contribute to AFUSA's mission.

- **Establishment of a Permanent Restricted Fund**
  - Signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the UERM Alumni Society of Michigan and Friends.
  - The agreement provides for the establishment of a permanent restricted fund and allows the Society to utilize AFUSA for tax-deductible fundraising projects, subject to applicable requirements and the terms of the agreement.

- **Approval of the AFUSA Fund Policy**
  - Secured Board of Trustees approval of the AFUSA Fund Policy to provide clear guidance on the administration and use of restricted funds.
  - The policy is intended to promote transparency, clarify donor expectations, and minimize misunderstandings regarding the designation and use of charitable contributions.

- **Wilmer Heceta Quasi-Endowment Fund**
  - The AFUSA Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution rescinding the 2002 restriction on the use of investment income from the Wilmer Heceta Quasi-Endowment Fund.
  - As a courtesy and in the interest of transparency, AFUSA reached out to Dr. Estherbelle Heceta to inform her of developments concerning the fund.
  - Dr. Heceta requested that only investment income be used.
  - The fund will continue to be managed with due regard for donor intent, applicable restrictions, and the responsibilities of AFUSA as a charitable organization.

III. Educational Programs, Mentorship, and Student Support

- **AFUSA Mentorship Pilot Project**
  - Launched the AFUSA Mentorship Pilot Project on August 29, 2026, under the leadership of Luven Tejero, MD '93.
  - Initiated the first of five scheduled lectures designed to support medical students through structured educational engagement.
  - Began one-on-one mentorship sessions with volunteer alumni.
  - The pilot will run through the end of February 2027, after which program metrics and outcomes will be evaluated.
  - Preliminary feedback and observations have been positive and encouraging, providing a promising foundation for further development.

- **Exploratory Student Exchange Program**
  - Initiated exploratory discussions under the leadership of Marisha Agana, MD '88, Chairperson of the AFUSA Medical Student Assistance Program Committee.
  - The discussions are exploring the feasibility of a student exchange program between the UERM College of Medicine and Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.
  - This initiative reflects AFUSA's continuing interest in expanding educational opportunities and fostering international academic collaboration.
  - First meeting was last October 21,2026 between AFUSA trustees led by Marisha Agana and UERM Dean Elmo Lago and College Secretary Lilia Reyes. It was very inspiring and constructive. A follow-up meeting is scheduled November 13, 2026.

- **Travel Grant Request**
  - Received a travel grant request from Dr. Jose Torio, Chief Resident of Neurosurgery at UERM Hospital.
  - The request was coursed through the appropriate channels for consideration in accordance with AFUSA's established processes by President Ric Flores MD'79.

IV. Community Outreach and Alumni Engagement

- **Revitalization of the Community Outreach Program**
  - Revived AFUSA's Community Outreach Program under the leadership of Nards Buena, MD '75.
  - This renewed effort was made possible through the generous donation of Josie Garcia-Sidiq of the Class of 1965.

- The program's revitalization reaffirms AFUSA's commitment to community service and to extending the benefits of alumni generosity beyond the academic setting.

- **Alumni Engagement Brunch in Las Vegas**
  - Conducted an alumni engagement brunch in June 2026, bringing together celebrating alumni in Las Vegas.
  - The event was well attended, with notable participation from the Classes of 1976 and 1981.
  - The gathering , spearheaded by Ruby Reyes MD'78, Andring Maranan MD'76 and VC Edna Solitario MD'79, provided an opportunity to strengthen alumni relationships, encourage continued participation, and reinforce the importance of collective support for AFUSA's mission.

- **Strengthening Alumni Representation**
  - Welcomed five new trustees for the 2026–2028 term.
  - Among them is Carmela Agustin-Kasala, MD '85, who is based in the Philippines.
  - Her appointment is expected to play an important role in facilitating the implementation of AFUSA programs in the Philippines and strengthening coordination with UERM.

- **Remembering a Beloved Trustee**
  - Mourned the passing of longtime trustee Rene Raymundo, MD '67, whose service and dedication to AFUSA will be remembered with gratitude.
  - His equally beloved widow, Susan Raymundo , MD '67, graciously accepted the opportunity to replace him, allowing AFUSA to maintain continuity in its Board representation.

V. Inter-Alumni Relations and Institutional Advocacy

- **Continuing Efforts Toward Alumni Unity**
  - Continued efforts to build bridges with MAAAI in response to President Norbert Uy's call for greater alumni unity.
  - Proposed a joint annual convention as a means of fostering collaboration, strengthening professional relationships, and advancing shared alumni interests.
  - MAAAI declined the proposal. AFUSA nevertheless remains committed to constructive engagement and future opportunities for cooperation.

- **Response to Allegations Concerning AFUSA**
  - Responded to allegations AFUSA considered false concerning the former AFUSA president and the Cuyegkeng USA Lecture.
  - The response reflected AFUSA's commitment to protecting the integrity of its leadership, programs, and institutional record.

VI. Governance, Compliance, and Accountability

- **Successful Filing of Required Annual Reports**
  - Successfully filed IRS Form 990 and New York State Charities Bureau Form CHAR500 for fiscal/calendar year 2025, as applicable.
  - Completed these filings with the assistance of AFUSA's new certified public accountant (CPA).
  - These filings demonstrate AFUSA's continuing commitment to regulatory compliance, sound financial stewardship, and accountability to its donors and stakeholders. AFUSA has consistently maintains a 100 % rating from CHARITY NAVIGATOR.

- **Strengthening Fund Governance**
  - Approved the AFUSA Fund Policy to establish clearer guidelines for restricted funds and donor-designated contributions.
  - Took formal Board action concerning the Wilmer Heceta Quasi-Endowment Fund, while maintaining communication with the donor's representative regarding the fund's developments and the requested use of investment income.

VII. Strategic Planning and the Road Ahead

- **2026 Strategic Planning Meeting**
  - Scheduled AFUSA's Strategic Planning Meeting for October 22–25, 2026, in Virginia.

- The meeting will provide an opportunity for the Board of Trustees to assess ongoing programs, establish organizational priorities, evaluate fundraising strategies, and develop a forward-looking roadmap for AFUSA.
- Key areas for consideration include program sustainability, alumni engagement, donor development, educational partnerships, community outreach, and governance.
- Expansion of the number of trustees with four additional serving 2027-2029, three are based in the Philippines.

VIII. Closing Remarks

- The year 2026 has been marked by continued progress in fundraising, educational initiatives, alumni engagement, community outreach, and institutional collaboration.
- AFUSA's recognition as UERM's largest financial donor for 2025 underscores the importance of sustained alumni generosity and responsible stewardship.
- The advancement of the Legacy Wall of Giving, the launch of the mentorship pilot project, the revitalization of Community Outreach, and the expansion of donor options represent meaningful steps toward a more sustainable and impactful organization.
- At the same time, AFUSA continues to strengthen its governance, financial accountability, and relationships with UERM and the broader alumni community.
- As we move forward, our challenge is to translate these initiatives into lasting programs with measurable outcomes, while preserving the trust of our donors and remaining faithful to AFUSA's charitable mission.

Respectfully submitted:

Rommel Aquino, MD HMDC DABFM
Chairman, Board of Trustees
21 October 2026